prudential guidelines for the development and regulation of all Mutual Funds which invest primarily in the capital market and for ensuring investor protection. The regulatory frame work under these guidelines includes *inter alia* authorisation of Mutual Funds by the Securities and Exchange Board of India on the basis of certain eligibility criteria, restrictions on their business activities, disclosure and accounting requirements, and penal provisions for violation of these guidelines.

Floating of Bonds by Maharashtra

1952. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government of Maharashtra have proposed to the Central Government for public borrowing through Bonds for accelerating completion of Irrigation projects in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what decision has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) & (b) The Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal seeking approval to float bonds worth about Rs.750 crores for financing irrigation projects in the State. Approval could not be granted to this proposal as the scheme of public sector bonds applies only to Central Public Sector undertakings.

Pending Loan Application with S.B.I., Pilkhuva in Uttar Pradesh

1953. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N.E. BALARAM:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loan application from weavers are pending with the State Bank of India, Pilkhuva in Uttar Pradesh since 18 March, 1986;

(b) whether it is also a fact that loan applicants and those who have already been granted loans are being harassed by the State Bank of India authorities;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what action Government propose to take against the Bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that no application received by the said branch in 1986 is pending. The banks recover their dues from borrowers as a part of their normal banking activities. The defaulting borrowers are advised by them to regularise their accounts by issue of notices, personal contacts etc. In some cases, legal proceedings are also taken up against the borrowers for effecting recoveries. Any specific complaint of harassment of any borrower, whenever received, is looked into by the bank.

Operation of Mediclaim Policy

1954. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiaries had tied up arrangements with hospitals nursing homes, diagnostic centres in Delhi for the benefit of mediclaim policy holders wherein they could get medical bill reimbursed direct from the Insurance companies;

(b) if so, what are the names of such hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres affiliated with insurance companies, company-wise;

(c) if not, what alternative steps are proposed in the matter so that policy holders are not harassed and ignored;

(d) whether insurance companies are issuing credit cards to mediclaim policy holders incorporating the maximum amount limit that could be availed and establish identification, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what alternative remedial measures are proposed to provide necessary safeguards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiary companies have entered into tie-up arrangement with Batra Hospital in Delhi. In addition,